(b) The Indian Express Group consists of quite a few taxable entities. As income is assessed separately with reference to each Assesment Year in respect of each taxable entity, the position about concealment can only be furnished if the name of the taxable entity and the specific Assessment Year in respect of which the information is required, are given.

On completion of certain investigations under FERA, 5 Show Cause Notices involving an amount of Rs. 1.5 crores (approximately) were issued- to M/s. Indian Express and other persons connected with it. In addition, one more matter pertaining to Indian Express is under investigation of the Directorate of Enforcement. Out of these one case was adjudicated on 23-12-88 imposing a penalty of Rs. 6 lakhs on M/s. Indian Express Newspapers Bombay Pvt. Ltd. and Rs. 1 lakh on Shri R. N. Goenka for making payment of Rs. 30 lakhs to a non-resident in contravention of Sec. 9 (1) (a) of the FERA, 1973. Both the Indian Express and its Chairman filed an appeal against the adjudication order to the FERA Board on 9-2-89.

(c) Appropriate action, as called for underr the Direct Taxes Enactments, is taken from time to time.

Grant of import licences to Big: Houses

1057. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the . news-item in the 'Time of India' of the 23rd June, 1989 captioned "Big House Scuttle import-export linkage" and if so, what was the quantum of exports undertaken by big house in 1986-87, 1987-38 and 1988-89 and what was the amount worth of import licence granted to these houses and whether there was any relation between the total amount for which import licences were granted and the amount of actual exports; and

(b) whether Government will reconsider the present policy of granting import licences to big houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the information made available by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, on the basis of study carried out by them, the exports made by the big houses during 1986-87 were of the order of Rs. 317.65 crores. Statistics in respect of import licences issued to the big houses and the exports made by them, are not maintained by them, separtely. It is therefore, not possible to make any co-relation between the two. It may be mentioned that on imoprts **for** domestic production, there is no pre-condition of exports but in case of large value imports, the importers are advised either to undertake substantial exports or to arrange supplier's credit.

(b) The import policy is kept constantly under review and the amendment thereto are made as and when considered necessary.

Runee-dollar exchange rate

1058. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the exchange value of dollar in terms of rupees as on date in comparison to that obtaining during the last three years; and

(b) what is the loss incurred in , terms of foreign trade during these years due to corresponding fall in the rupee exchange value *vis-a-vis* dollar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Position in regard to exchange value of dollar in terms of rupees as on 21-7-1989 and that obtaining on the corresponding date in the last three years is as follows:

	1 $=Rs.
21-7-89	16,5028
21-7-88	14.0977
21-7-87	13.0733
21-7-86	12;5083

(b) In view of the diverse effects of the exchange rate, on foreign trade, it is not possible to quantify the impact of exchange rate variations on the country's trade.

Assam Tea Plantation Labour Welfare Bill, 1986

1059. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assam Tea Plantation Labour Welfare Bill, 1986 has not been cleared by the Central Government so far; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH); (a) Yes, Sir. The Bill involves Constitutional and substantive issues, which are engaging the attention of Government of India.

(b) It is not possible to indicate any date by which the Bill will be cleared.

Income Tax Arrears of Law Commission Members

1060. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any income-tax related case is at present pending against some membsrs of Law Commission; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The question is not quite clear and, therefore, it is not possible to collect information. If any specific information is required about any particular member, the same can be furnished.

Display of Prime Minister's Photo in Central Government Officers

1061. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) what are the guidelines issued to various Central Government offices regarding the display of the Prime Minister's photo; and

(b) what, is the estimated amount so far incurred on such dispaly?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) No instructions/guidelines have been issued regarding display of photographs/portraits of national leaders including the Prime Minister of India. The matter has been left to the Departments to decide whether they should at all exhibit any photographs/portraits in the office rooms and, if so, of which particular leader, while ensuring that no controversy arises out of a display of any portrait. The question of estimating the expenditure on the display of photographs does not, therefore, arise.

Cornering of Huge amount of private funds by companies

1062. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE he pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the big private companies are cornering